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manner which deletes numerals 1 to 8 and their associated lead lines. This amendment has already been effected on the formal drawings submitted on April 5, 1995, and is therefore necessary to avoid any discrepancy between the two sets of drawings.

The date of publication of the ceramic order sheet cited on the previously filed PTO Form 1449 is not known at this time. Efforts will be made to uncover this date and it will be supplied to the Examiner when and if it becomes known to the undersigned.

Claims 1 to 11 and 15 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1 to 9 of copending application Serial No. 08/398,171 (hereinafter '171) in view of Minovitch.

The claims in '171 have been amended to clarify over the arrangement claimed in this application. More specifically, the independent claims of '171 have been amended to call for:

- A suspension system for an automotive vehicle having a body and an axle which supports a road wheel comprising:
 - a container secured to a fixed portion of the vehicle body;
 - a connection member operatively connected with the axle and partially enclosed within said container, said connection member being arranged with means forming part of said container so as to be

- guided vertically within said container;
- a first group of at least a first pair of permanent magnets enclosed within said container and comprising either ceramic magnets or ferrous magnets having like poles of said permanent magnets positioned adjacent an outer surface of each other;
 - a second group of at least a second pair of permanent magnets enclosed within said container and comprising either ceramic magnets or ferrous magnets having like poles of said permanent magnets positioned adjacent each other, said first and said second groups of said permanent magnets defining a channel therebetween;
 - at least a third pair of magnetically permeable members enclosed within said container and comprising malleable steel members, malleable iron members, or molded iron members, one of said third pair being respectively located between said adjacent surfaces of said pair of permanent magnets and located adjacent each outer surface of said pair of permanent magnets to concentrate magnetic flux at opposed locations in said channel; and
 - at least a third permanent magnet located in said channel, each pole of said third magnet being

positioned adjacent an opposite magnetic pole of said first pair of permanent magnets at a surface of one of said magnetically permeable members, thus to maintain a stable positional relationship by the magnetic effect of said first, second, and third permanent magnets on each other, said third permanent magnet being connected to said connection member for movement therewith.

And

- A system for supporting an axle which is connected with a road wheel of a vehicle, comprising:
- a support member fixed to a portion of the vehicle body;
 - a first plurality of adjacently-spaced, generally vertically-aligned groups of permanent magnets comprising ceramic magnets or ferrous magnets supported in an elongated face-to-face relationship on said support member, said groups of said permanent magnets being arranged to define a channel therebetween and to be separated by magnetically permeable material members which focus lines of flux into the channel;
 - a second plurality of permanent magnets located in said channel with opposite magnetic poles facing poles on said first plurality of groups of magnetic members; and

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connection means operatively
interconnecting said plurality of
permanent magnets located in said
channel with axle.

As will be appreciated, the combination of this arrangement with the "big dipper" type of gravity-inertia assisted underground "maglev" type high speed transport disclosed in Minovitch would be fraught with difficulties. The '171 arrangement is directed to a wheeled vehicle, while the Minovitch arrangement is directed to vehicles having no wheels whatsoever.

Favorable reconsideration of the claims as amended and the above remarks is courteously solicited. In that claims 1 to 15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, it is requested that the Examiner now pass this application to issue. However, if there are any outstanding issues that require further attention, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned so that these matters can be expeditiously dealt with.

Respectfully submitted,

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 *Ry. 37,025*
for Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No. 24,104

MARKS & MURASE L.L.P.
Suite 750
2001 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 955-4900
Facsimile: (202) 955-4933